

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4067

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 4683

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TAG INFO AND SUBJECT OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, YO, US

SUBJECT: TITO REMARKS ON YUGOSLAV ARMS REQUESTS

FOR SONNENFELDT AND ARMITAGE

REF : A) ZAGREB 0713, B) BELGRADE 4663 , C) BELGRADE 3962

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH DEPUTY FEDERAL SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MOJSOV ON SECRETARY'S UN SPEECH, I BROUGHT UP TITO'S PUZZLING DISCUSSION WITH CODEL ALBERT RE ANTI-TANK MISSILES. MOJSOV INDICATED THAT TITO KNEW THAT GOY WAS SEEKING ANTI-TANK MISSILES BUT OBJECTED TO (1) THE EMPHASIS OR IMPORTANCE GIVEN TO IT IN THE US PRESS AND (2) THEIR ALLEGED POTENTIAL TARGET, THE SOVIET UNION.

2. I BROUGHT SUBJECT UP AGAIN WITH MOJSOV FOR FOLLOWING REASONS. TITO CLEARLY SAID TO CODEL ALBERT THAT GOY WAS NOT RPT NOT SEEKING ANTI-TANK MISSILES AT ALL (REF B) AND OF COURSE THIS IS UNTRUE. SINCE I WAS PUZZLED, I IMMEDIATELY ASKED MOJSOV ABOUT IT AFTER THE MEETING AND MOJSOV'S RESPONSE THEN WAS "OH, HE KNEW THEY WERE SEEKING ANTI-TANK WEAPONS BUT NOT MISSILES" WHICH CONFUSED ME EVEN MORE. TODAY MOJSOV HAD IT ALL STRAIGHT. OF COURSE, THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS MAY WELL BE THAT TITO (AND MOJSOV) DID NOT

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KNOW WHAT THE ARMY WAS SEEKING FROM THE USG. MOJSOV

MAY WELL HAVE PROTESTED TOO MUCH.

3. BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF
THE MILITARY LAST NIGHT, INDICATED THAT UP UNTIL 1972
HIS CONTACTS IN THE MILITARY HAD BEEN QUITE OPEN IN
SUGGESTING THAT TITO WAS NOT SUFFICIENTLY WARY OF THE
SOVIETS, AND ALTHOUGH THEY ARE MORE GUARDED IN THEIR
DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM TODAY, HE IS CONCERNED THEY RETAIN
THAT VIEW (SEE REF C).

SILBERMAN

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